The herbicide 2, 4-D can be used in agricultural crops, forests, roadsides, lawns, and aquatic sites. As a selective herbicide, 2, 4-D kills broadleaf weeds but will not harm grasses. It can be found formulated as an emulsion and in aqueous solutions.

Potential hazards of 2, 4-D:
- Low to moderately toxic to mammals including people and pets.
- Slightly to moderately toxic to birds and waterfowl.
- Slightly to highly toxic to fish.
- Slightly to highly toxic to aquatic invertebrates.
- Low in toxicity to insects.
- Will injure desired broadleaf plants if drift contacts them.

Water quality issues:
2, 4-D breaks down rapidly in most soil types, so it has only a low potential to contaminate groundwater.

Tips for keeping 2, 4-D out of water:
- Avoid spraying on hard surfaces, especially when water from irrigation or rain can wash the herbicide away.
- Avoid runoff by not overwatering.
- Apply only when needed.
- Use spot treatments to apply the herbicide only where it is needed.

Options to consider when pesticides are recommended:
- Always select the least toxic product that can solve the problem and consider nonchemical alternatives. Always use pesticides in an integrated pest management program that includes a combination of methods.
- See the UC IPM Web site, www.ipm.ucdavis.edu, for nonchemical or safer chemical control alternatives.

More about 2, 4-D:
- 2, 4-D is a general use systemic herbicide that causes rapid cell division in a plant, leading to abnormal growth.

Product being applied

Company contact information

For more pesticide and pest management information, visit the University of California IPM Web site at www.ipm.ucdavis.edu or the California Department of Pesticide Regulation Web site at www.cdpr.ca.gov.

The contents of this document do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of the California Department of Pesticide Regulation.